

DANDELION AS PEST

Unusually Luxuriant Crop of Weed This Spring.

No Safe Remedy, Say Experts, Except to Get Down and Dig Them Out by Roots—Big Damage Is Seen in New Jersey.

Chicago—Dandelions are getting a strange hold upon Chicago's lawns this year.

While other cities are estimating in six figures the loss caused by the condemned yellow blossoms, Chicago gardeners are looking with disgust upon one of the most luxuriant crops of the big-leaved weeds that the lawns upon which they sowed grass ever bore. The late spring, followed by the unusual hot weather, seem to have been just what the dandelions have been waiting for to show what they can do in the way of rapid growth, and some of them have almost leaped out of the ground in their eagerness to mount skyward.

In some of the parks, in places where much tramping has weakened the more delicate grass, a second crop of dandelions is blooming in the spaces left by the first. The earlier crop is now going to seed, and for large areas the grass is almost invisible. The leaves of many of the plants have been lifted clear of the ground by the rapidity of growth.

Other cities are watching the dandelion crop with even more concern than in Chicago. Gardeners in East Orange, N. J., estimate that a damage approximating \$100,000 has been done the lawns in that section within the last fortnight.

In other of the eastern states where much pride is taken in the appearance of the lawns the dandelions have secured an equally strong start. The belief is stated by some of the naturalists that some natural enemy of the dandelion which has kept it more within bounds in former years has been absent this season.

That continued activity with the lawn mower and careful fertilization of lawns are safer preventives of the dandelion pest than any chemical preparations was the advice given by several Chicago gardening experts in speaking of means of dealing with them.

Like many antidotes for poison, their main objection is that they kill the patient as well as ridding him of the trouble, they declare. Sulfate of iron, which is recommended as sure death to dandelions, is almost, if not quite, as hard on the grass.

"Dandelions are beautiful early in May, but for the rest of the year they are ugly, and therefore we have to keep them out," said Jens Jensen, in speaking of this year's crop.

"The only way to deal with them in large areas is to keep the grass close out and in healthy condition, so that there won't be any bare spots for the seed to get through to the ground and sprout.

"If you keep their heads cut off before they have a chance to go to seed you prevent them from spreading. I don't know of any preparation that doesn't do too much harm to the vegetation you want to save to be safely used in killing them. Of course, if you have a small lawn, the best thing is to get down on your knees and dig them out by the roots."

C. Simonds, landscape gardener for the Lincoln park commission, was of much the same opinion.

"Dandelions are pretty difficult to cope with, and there certainly are a lot of them this year," he said. "Sulfate of iron is recommended by many, but it undoubtedly is pretty hard on the grass. It is a little harder on the dandelions than it is on the grass, so in many cases it kills the one and the other survives. It is rather a desperate remedy, though."

CHINESE PHEASANT IN CAB

Locomotive Engine Driver Captures Bird Probably Bewildered by Light—Kept as a Pet.

Spokane, Wash.—While driving a passenger train at a 15-mile-an-hour clip over the Northern Pacific line from Ellensburg, Wash., to Spokane, J. M. Gallaman, a locomotive engine driver, captured a Chinese pheasant, which flew into the open cab and plumped against the back of his head. Gallaman was trying to shoot when the bird, bewildered by the light in the smoke hole, landed on him and rolled to the floor. The bird was not injured and Gallaman brought it to Spokane.

Pheasants have been protected in the state of Washington several years, and are multiplying rapidly, especially in the eastern and central parts. The law prohibits killing the birds, but there is nothing in the code to prevent Gallaman from making a pet of the one he captured.

Not Vagrants, "Moters."

New York—Abraham and Hiestead Shelly, brothers, forty and forty-eight years old, respectively, were found sleeping in a vacant barn, near Mosteller, N. J.

When taken to police headquarters as vagrants, they said they were "moters."

"What's that?" asked the magistrate. They explained that they were mole trappers by trade and came from Mt. Joy, Pa. They were en route to Cedar Grove and Essex Falls, where they expected to find employment protecting lawns from moles. They were discharged.

PINEAPPLE VESTS WEAR LONG

Englishmen Returning From India Brings Garment Made From Strong Fiber—Cost Small.

London—Pineapple underwear is one of the latest wonders threatened by mechanical science.

It has long been known that the fiber of the pineapple leaf can be manufactured into the most dainty, muslin-like material, but the cost of extracting the fiber has made the price of the fabric almost prohibitive.

A retired Indian colonel, who is the proud possessor of three undervests made from pineapple leaves, said they were more luxurious and comfortable than the very finest silk.

"They cost me something like \$20 apiece," he said, "and though I have worn them for over thirty years, they show no signs of wear even yet."

"I doubt if they are procurable anywhere in London. In India the natives extract the fiber from the pineapple leaves by hand, and the process is long and laborious. The products of rami, or China grass, are fairly well known, but only a few know of the luxury of the pineapple."

While pursuing inquiries on this interesting subject among silk brokers and silk manufacturers, whose businesses are threatened by this new invention, it was found that the existence of pineapple silk was scarcely known.

"After all, silk is silk," said a leading broker, "and this new invention or discovery will rank among artificial silks, of which there are already enough to form a market amongst themselves."

In the office of one of the principal fiber merchants of Mark Lane were seen specimens of a beautiful silk-muslin fabric which had been manufactured from the pineapple fiber under the superintendence of Charles R. Dodge, the fiber superintendent of the United States government.

"While touring on the continent," said a well-known fiber expert, "I found that pineapple silk was stocked by some of the leading drapers. My wife bought a quantity of it, but when on our return she tried to purchase some of it in London she failed to find any shop that kept it."

"For trimmings I think it is excellent, but I doubt if, in its present state of development, it would be equal to very hard wear. But the great trouble with these fabric textiles is that the planters will not guarantee a large and regular supply of the raw material and English manufacturers will not alter their machines to suit it until they do."

PARENTS SPOIL THEIR BOYS

Make Life Easy by Pointing Out Obstacles and Dangers Encountered—Failure Is Helpful.

Chicago—Parental indulgence which seeks to smooth from the paths of sons and daughters the obstacles which the parents themselves encountered and surmounted was held up as the chief danger confronting modern home life by Rev. John Timothy Stone, in an address before the Sunday Evening club.

"The great danger which faces the home life of today is that young people will have things too easy because of what their parents do for them," he said. "It isn't always good to have everything you want. It is a good thing to have obstacles to overcome. Ninety per cent. of the men who start in business fail, but 80 per cent. of those who ultimately succeed come from the 10 per cent. who failed and not from the 10 per cent. who at first succeeded."

"Because life is so difficult is no reason for the young man's looking at himself as a creature of circumstances. If he is in bad circumstances he must get out of them. If his employer is dishonest, let him find a new employer. There are more honest than dishonest employers."

"Life does not consist in playing a good hand fairly; it consists in playing a bad hand well. It doesn't consist in fault finding criticism. The best critics are the best appreciators. Find the best musician in Chicago and you will find the best music critic in Chicago; find the best painter in Chicago and you have the best critic of painting in Chicago, for real criticism is creation."

Police Alarm Cost Is \$100. New York—Because two men couldn't take a dare, the city of New York was put to an expense of \$100 at 4 o'clock the other morning, when a false alarm of fire was turned in from Fifth avenue and 187th street, ringing out eight places of apparatus.

Policeman Schneider saw two men standing at the box and heard the alarm going in.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "Somebody dared us to send in a fire alarm," one of the men replied. Both men appeared to have been celebrating.

In a few minutes two trucks, three engines, the fire patrol and two battalion chiefs arrived. The firemen were mad and had the men arrested.

Man in Strawberry Mash. Allentown, Pa.—Robert Klots was almost transformed into a human strawberry shortcake when outgassed into a fruit stand by ex-Judge Edward's automobile.

In the mix-up of four machines the ex-judge's chauffeur, in order to avoid striking a girl, was compelled to run over a sidewalk against a house.

Klots was in the way, was hurled into a big display of strawberries and escaped with a coating of the mashed fruit. Auto and fruit stand were badly damaged.

DISCARD FISH YARNS

They Are Deaf, Dumb and Nearly Blind, Says Professor.

Brains Are Comparatively Small and Old Stories Must Be Regarded as Merely Mythical—Really Does Not Think at All.

London—All the popular notions about fishes are exploded by Professor Harold Russell, the zoologist. He announces, after a series of experiments, that fishes are deaf, dumb and practically color blind. They cannot cry, much less shed tears, as many generations of comic artists would have the public believe.

The old stories of fish which came to be fed when called or when a bell was rung must now be regarded as mythical. All that the fish possesses is a rudimentary inner ear, and it is a modified part of the so-called "lateral line," the most mysterious thing in fishes. By taking the calcareous stones out of the ears of fish, the fish lose all sense of equilibrium and roll about as if crazy.

The brains of fishes, says Professor Russell, are comparatively small, though the parts and the general position of the nerves correspond with those of monkeys and mankind. In a trout the brain does not half fill the cerebral cavity, the roof of the space being occupied by a greasy fluid.

In the front of a fish's brain are the olfactory lobes, from which the nerves of smell issue. Behind these lobes are the cerebrum, the thinking part, very small and insignificant. The "trout" has no cerebra cortex or "think box." Behind the cerebrum are the optic lobes, into which run the nerves from the eye. Lastly comes the cerebellum, which controls the power of movement.

Discussing these and other curious features of fish life in the Natural Review, Professor Russell says a fish really does not think at all, but acts by reflexes. A message is sent inward to the brain, and the muscles at once contract. Sensations are changed into movements, and actions take place without thinking. Reflex actions are, therefore, immediately suggested and directed by the influence of external things.

A fish is thus an impressionist. Fear and anger are its chief emotions, and the search for food and for a mate chiefly occupies its activities.

Most fishes hunt their food by sight alone, though the eels depend solely on their sense of smell. The structure of a fish's eye does not essentially differ from that of a human eye. A trout has no eyelids and sleeps with its eyes open. Fishes have no tear glands. Their vision is poor. As a rule, fishes are short-sighted. The fish's eye is at rest when regarding something close at hand. A man's eye is at rest when it is directed to some far-away object, such as a star.

How little taste or smell is possessed by fishes is shown by experiments on a conger eel in an aquarium. It devoured with equal avidity fish covered with anchovy extract, cheese, camphor spirits, iodoform and turpentine. Many fishes have no tongue at all, but it is conspicuous and well developed in the trout and its allies. Carp have broad, flat back teeth with which they masticate their food with apparent gusto. A fish's tongue is without power of movement. Salivary glands are absent in all fishes and their mouths never water even at sight of the most appetizing flies.

Professor Bateson reports that some fish in an aquarium ignored a straight piece of wire, but eagerly snatched at wire twisted to resemble a worm, and they did not discriminate between white, blue or yellow wires so twisted. Most fishes have poor taste and bolt their food whole. Fishes taste with their skin, Professor Russell guesses.

WHY HE WORE HAT IN CHURCH

Rev. John Timothy Stone Tells of Expedient Used by Lonely Man to Have Himself Spoken To.

Chicago—To illustrate the "fishiness" of some churches Rev. John Timothy Stone, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian church, speaking at the First Presbyterian church the other night told a story of a man who sat through the services one Sunday morning wearing his hat.

When requested to do so by the usher, he removed the hat smilingly. The usher afterwards asked him if he had worn the hat purposely or if it was merely absent-minded negligence.

"No," said the man, "I have been attending this church regularly for nearly two years and no one has ever spoken to me in all that time. I just thought I would leave my hat on my head this morning to see if it would serve as an introduction to some one. I am glad to meet you."

Students' Feed Is Costly.

New Haven, Conn.—The appetite of the average Yale undergraduate looms large in food statistics compiled by the management of the university dining hall, where 900 students eat three times daily. During the first five months of the college year, it took 190,000 quarts of milk, 30,000 quarts of cream and 315,000 fresh eggs to satisfy the college boarders. Other notable items are 7,500 pounds of breakfast foods, 14,000 pounds of butter, four and a half tons of crackers, 450 barrels of flour, 30,000 pounds of roast beef and 19,000 pounds of chicken.

PRECIOUS GEMS IN GOTHAM

Garnets, Beryls, Tourmalines and Other Jewels Underlie Skyscrapers of New York City.

New York—While New York may never rival South Africa and Brazil as a natural producer of precious stones, nor its skyscrapers give way to mining activities, the fact has just been brought to light as a result of borings for subways and gigantic building foundations that it is underlain with rock which contains all sorts of valuable gems. Throughout the island of Manhattan garnets, beryls, tourmalines and other jewels equally valuable lie practically under foot, it now appears.

Owing to their peculiar formation the rocks on which the city rests provide one of the most interesting mineral localities in the world. According to a local mineralogist who has studied the substance of Manhattan, the tide of building northward within the last year has brought to light many new specimens of its gem-producing ability.

West and northwest of Central Park is the great field. But if a subway is built along upper Lexington avenue and in the rock regions of the Bronx, it may reveal new wonders. In Harlem it may penetrate into the belt of garnets, and possibly tourmaline may be found here and there. There is plenty of fool's gold—iron pyrites—in Manhattan and some of it, seriously, is not far from Fifth avenue in 32d street.

The real yellow metal, it is said by mineralogists, was once reported in bits of quartz brought up from the excavation of a building near Broadway and Maiden lane, center of the gold and silver industry of New York.

SETS TOWN TO SCRATCHING

School Boy Is Accused of Distributing "Cow Itch"—Joker Will Be Publicly Flogged.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—A practical joker recently has had half the residents of Conyngham, a country town near here, scratching continuously at the greatly irritated surface of their skins. A special committee of the school board is endeavoring to find and punish him.

The afflicted ones did not know what was wrong at first. Some thought it was an epidemic of hives; but it did not develop like hives; the skin merely grew red, there was a slight swelling and the irritation was continuous, while the number of those affected grew until half the residents were scratching.

Finally it was learned that it was all due to "cow itch," which had been distributed in the school, in two lodger-rooms, the postoffice, and at a horse sale during the week, evidently by some practical joker, probably a pupil. The people are so indignant after their prolonged irritation that the joker is likely to be publicly flogged if caught.

VENDERS ARE "EARLY BIRDS"

"Stake Out Claims" Many Hours Before First Patron Appears—Competition Is Very Keen.

Atlantic City, N. J.—Through the arrangement of John Shain, a board-walk flower vendor, in recorder's court, there was revealed a competition in this business so keen that the itinerant merchants select their posts as early as four o'clock in the morning, before the visitors appear, in order that they may get the most advantageous locations. One of these vendors had arrived on the boardwalk the other day at four o'clock, and "staking out his claim" at North Carolina avenue, indicated the fact by placing his tray upon the railing. He went down the boardwalk a short distance, and when he returned he found that his place had been pre-empted by Shain, who refused to move. A patrolman, recognizing the other's right of priority, placed Shain under arrest, and he was fined five dollars for insisting upon what he considered his rights.

ISOLATE LEPER UNTIL END

Lee Tung, Afflicted Pittsburg Chinaman, to Live Rest of Life Away From the Public.

Pittsburg—Lee Tung, the local Chinaman who is suffering from tubercular leprosy, was taken to the municipal hospital the other day, where he will live the rest of his life, isolated from the public.

The Chinaman's face is badly swollen, and ugly blotches mark his wrists and forearms. He contracted the disease eight years ago while on a visit to China.

Dr. B. A. Booth, the city physician, says that the leper probably will live for four or five years. In the meantime the city will have to provide a home for him. During the warm weather he will live in a tent on the hospital grounds, but before winter sets in a house of some sort will have to be built for him.

Wife in Eve's Class.

Trenton, N. J.—Determined to keep his wife from leaving the house, Michael Maragh burned all of her clothes and left her without a garment to wear. Patrolman Malone was attracted to the home by the cries of the wife and he found the husband in the yard supervising the cremation of the clothing.

He was taken to the second district station and after promising to provide clothing for his wife was allowed to go.

BLINDWOMEN'S CLUB

Young and Old All in Dark, Chat Vivaciously.

Everybody Seems to Know Everybody Else and Handclapping, as Sign of Appreciation, Is Frequent and Prolonged.

New York—The Blind Women's club will suggest a picture of Master Lincoln gloom only to those who have not had the fortune to attend one of its meetings. More than forty women, young and old, all in the dark, chat vivaciously. Everybody seems to know everybody else by voice, handclapping, as a sign of appreciation, is frequent and prolonged.

The club is one of the many activities of the Association of the Blind at 118 East Fifty-ninth street, which is working to aid the blind to overcome their handicap and to make their lives useful and happy. Primarily, the object of the club is, by extending their horizons of work and interest, to provide a means for the blind women known to the association to meet and "see" one another, talk over the mutual problems, and also to bring cheer, comfort and happiness into the lives of other blind persons.

The business of a recent meeting went with verve and almost all the members took part in the discussions that arose from the matters in hand. When a speaker addressed the chair, the president would promptly announce: "Miss So-and-So speaks." To inform her listeners who had the floor. In moments of quiet there would be heard the tick-tick of the secretary's stylus as she recorded the minutes of the meeting in Braille, the system of raised dot writing of the blind. In the earlier part of the evening, her reading of the roll and the minutes of the last meeting was as faultless and as rapid as though she had read from the printed page.

There is not a suggestion of an "unfortunate lot" about any of the members. Their cheerfulness is amazing, and the interest they take in the little foibles dear to the feminine heart is a live interest. In the course of the regular club business it becomes necessary to read a communication to the secretary written in ink. A lady who saw merely with her eyes was asked to read the letter. Owing to illibility she had to stop and finally omit some words. This raised a laugh from all the members who could read with ten eyes, remarked of only two. One woman interjected: "That can't happen to our letters."

The home teacher of the association, who is a very active member of the club, and who goes into the homes of the blind, teaching them to read Braille, how to play games, how to make baskets and to knit, was telling some of her latest experiences in her work. "This afternoon," she was saying, "I paid my fourth visit to an old colored mammy of eighty-three, who has been blind for more than half a century. During this time she has read nothing, has done little or no work, just sat in brooding idleness. Oh! she was so anxious to do something to occupy her mind. Today was her fourth reading lesson in Braille, and she read almost perfectly. In two or three more lessons she will be able to read anything."

MEN MAKE BETTER TEACHERS

President Charles W. Elliot of Harvard Says Plan to Equalize Salaries Is Most Destructive.

New York—In regretting his inability to lecture in New York on the question of equal pay for men and women teachers, which the board of education proposes to adjust by reducing the salaries of men, former President Charles W. Elliot of Harvard writes to Joseph Van Danburg:

"The sex of the teacher is of absolutely no importance in education. It is a perfectly clear result of much experience that men make better teachers for boys over twelve than women do. You tell me the board of education is planning to reduce the salaries of men teachers. A more destructive policy could hardly be imagined. There are two reasons for paying women teachers less than men. First, with rare exceptions, they do not and cannot do the same work. Secondly, teaching as a temporary occupation for young women is more desirable among the occupations open to women than it is for young men, among the occupations open to men."

Show Largest Anecdote.

New York—The largest Anecdote ever captured is occupying a fine new glass house at the Bronx zoological gardens. The snake, already christened Big Annie by its guardians, arrived the other day from Trinidad. It measures 20 feet from tip to tip, and weighs more than 300 pounds and has a waist measure of three feet. Big Annie was captured by R. R. Mole, a newspaper editor in Trinidad, who has furnished several other specimens to zoological gardens.

Beef Stew His Downfall.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Charged with the theft of a beef stew from the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Simmons, 710 East New York street, Frank Arbuckle, an umbrella mender, was fined \$1 and costs in police court by Judge Collins. Arbuckle admitted the theft, saying he stole the stew because he was hungry. He declared the savory odor from the stew as it was cooking tempted him and that he could not resist stealing the dish.

DOLLAR BILL HAS ROMANCE

Man Contemplating Buldizo Changes His Mind and Wins Fortune—Gains Money in Change.

Chicago—A dilapidated one dollar bill, passed out from the ticket window of one of the local theaters, disclosed the other day as strange a romance as ever was dreamed of by a writer of fiction. The legal tender, which bore a message of despair written on its face, fell into the owner's hands after fifteen years of wandering through the west and the gold fields of Alaska.

The man who had written the message was Roy Denton, a native of New York state, who fifteen years ago went west to find his fortune. But luck followed his undertakings and sickness followed. He spent his last dollar for medicine, and in his disheartened condition he wrote on its face "This is my last dollar. R. D." The medicine did not give the desired relief, and in his distressed state of mind, being without funds or friends, he wandered down to the bay, with the intention of ending his life.

On the way to the wharf he was discovered by a former schoolmate, to whom he confided his troubles. The meeting resulted in Denton changing his mind; and the following week the two schoolmates started for Nome, Alaska, where Denton took a claim which yielded him a fortune.

For the last three years he has been traveling in the orient, returning to America last month, and was on his way to his old home. He stopped off in Chicago between trains and accompanied by a friend, went to a local theater.

He gave a five-dollar bill in payment for two seats and received in return two one-dollar bills. As the money reached his hands, Alfred B. Wiseman, the ticket seller, noticed the man scrutinizing the bill, turning it pale and exclaiming: "There's a dollar I never expected to see again." The man's agitation caused Wiseman to make further inquiries, and he revealed the story of his bad luck and subsequent fortune.

"I wouldn't sell this bill for all the money in the world," said Denton, as he walked away from the box office window.

CAT HAS GOLD-FILLED TOOTH

Pussy's Molar Has First to Be Freed of an Ulceration—Kitchen Table as Operating "Chair."

Malden, Mass.—Goldie is a eight-pound cown cat whose chief distinctive is a gold-filled tooth. At one time an ulceration seized the molar and the tortures became so great that the animal would dash through the rooms of my house in a frenzy, and I feared that it would go mad," says Fred Swanson of 6 Gilbert street.

"A nephew of mine was at that time studying dentistry. He treated the tooth until the ulceration had disappeared. Then he decided that the time was ripe for the operation. The kitchen table in my house served as the operating chair." Because of his great respect for the cat's claws, my nephew administered ether. When the cat was in slumberland, my nephew worked quickly and effectively with the dental apparatus. Soon the cavity had been plugged."

WOMEN SHOE SHINERS FAIL

Novelty Aimed to Catch Loose Change of Kansas City Men Proves Unsuccessful Venture.

Kansas City, Mo.—After being open one month, a shoe-shining stand, with women employees only, closed the other night on account of slack trade. Men would not patronize the place and the women customers were too few to make the business profitable.

Before the stand opened the following sign was placed in the front window of the room the shiners were to occupy:

"Pretty girls will shine your shoes here."

Immediately there came a protest. An occupation license was refused the manager of the stand, but it was permitted to open on probation. At no time were more than three women employed.

Started Fifty Years Ago.

Cosben, N. Y.—Gen. Henry L. Burnett, former United States attorney, who has a summer home near Cosben, received by registered mail from Chicago, a key-winder silver watch that had been dispatched to him by messenger during the Civil war and never reached him.

General Burnett was major of the Second Ohio regiment when A. H. Hoffman sent him the watch with the inscription on the case: Presented to Major Henry L. Burnett by Hon. A. N. Hoffman.

A relative of General Burnett came across the watch in a Chicago jewelry store recently.

Co-Eds Darn Socks for Pay.

Philadelphia.—The co-eds at Swarthmore college are taking all sorts of odd jobs in order to raise the \$50,000 needed to complete a college endowment. They scraped up \$20,000.

During their spare time the co-eds act as nurse girls for the matrons in the vicinity of Swarthmore. Some mend socks at 5 cents a hole, no matter what the size of the hole.

Others make beds on a graduated scale of prices. For turning the mattresses they charge 5 cents, but they will put on the sheets in any old way for 2 cents.